



TENT  
1392-174

3652

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Mark J. Kittock, et al.

Serial No: 09/771,471

Filed: January 26, 2001

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PICKING  
AND PLACING VESSELS

TRANSMITTAL OF SUPPLEMENTAL  
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sirs:

1.  The information disclosure statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application other than a continued prosecution application, or within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of an international application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, or before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, whichever event occurs last. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b).
2.  The information disclosure statement transmitted herewith is being filed *after* the period specified in §1.97(b), but *before* the mailing date of a final action under §1.113, or a notice of allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, whichever occurs first. A statement specified in §1.97(e) or a fee set forth in §1.17(p) is included. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c).

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington D.C. 20231, on  
May 22, 2001  
Date of Deposit  
Wei-ning Yang, Reg. No. 38,690  
Name  
Signature 5/22/01  
Date

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**§1.97(e) STATEMENT**

NOV 28 2001

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I, the person signing below, state:

that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in the attached communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and that the communication is dated not more than three months prior to the filing of the statement. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1).

OR

that no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in

§1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the statement. 37 C.F.R.  
§1.97(e)(2).

**OR FEE**

Attached is a fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under §1.97(c). (\$180.00).

3.  The information disclosure statement transmitted herewith is being filed *after* the period specified in §1.97(c), but before, or simultaneously with the payment of the issue fee. A statement specified in §1.97(e) and a fee set forth in §1.17(p) are included. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d).

**§1.97(e) STATEMENT**

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I, the person signing below, state:

that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in the attached communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and that the communication is dated not more than three months prior to the filing of the statement. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1).

**OR**

that no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the statement. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(2).

**AND FEE**

Attached is a fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under §1.97(d). (\$180.00).

4.  If it should be determined that for any reason either an insufficient fee or an excessive has been paid, please charge any insufficiency or credit any overpayment necessary to ensure consideration of the information disclosure statement for the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-1314. **A copy of this petition is enclosed.**

5.  A list of 1 reference(s) is in the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

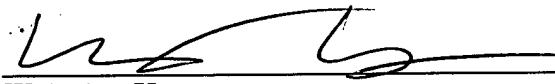
**NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE REFERENCES**

- Enclosed is a search report for a counterpart application. The search report Examiner has provided comments on the relevancy of any non-English language references cited in the search report.
- The specification incorporates comments on the relevancy of Non-English language references.
- Set forth below are comments provided by the applicant's home country counsel on the relevancy of non-English language references:

Respectfully submitted,  
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: May 22, 2001

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By:   
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<p><b>FORM PTO-1449</b></p> <p><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION</b></p> <p><i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i></p> <p><i>O I P E J C 174</i> <i>MAY 25 2001</i> <i>U S P T O</i></p>	<b>Docket Number (Optional)</b> 1892-174	<b>Application Number</b> 09/771,471
	<b>Applicant</b> Mark J. KITTOCK et al.	
	<b>Filing Date</b> January 26, 2001	<b>Group Art Unit</b> (Not Assigned)

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.